

Message from John Rolfe to Media Watch:

Hello Paul and team, in last week's episode you said my story on the teals broke the golden rule of journalism, being that "news and opinion should be kept separate". I would suggest that there is another equally important rule, which can be found at 5.2 of the ABC's code of practice: "Where allegations are made about a person or organisation, make reasonable efforts in the circumstances to provide a fair opportunity to respond." The right thing to do would be to point out at the end of tonight's show that you didn't give me a fair opportunity to respond but should have, How can you criticise others in the media if you don't uphold basic standards? If you had asked, I would have said the story was entirely reasonable, given the teals did not level with voters prior to the poll on subjects they are highly likely to confront as parliamentarians, Bob Katter, Andrew Wilkie and Dai Le did, but no teal. Not even Allegra Spender, who apparently wants a full review review of the tax system.